

Become a better writer: work with a Tutor!

Writing tutor schedules change every semester and sometimes within a semester. Be sure to consult the Kollett Center website for the most current information.

I want to set up a tutoring session. What do I do?

Setting up a tutoring session is very simple. First, consult a tutoring schedule from the Kollett Center web site. When you have found a session that works for you, you can just show up!

What should I bring to a tutoring session?

Bring whatever you've got. It doesn't matter whether you have some notes, two paragraphs, or a full draft. If possible, bring two copies of what you've written so far, one for you and one for the tutor. It is also helpful to bring the assignment with you for the tutor to read. Finally, bring any questions, problems, or ideas you have.

Where can I find the tutors?

Tutoring sessions take place in two different locations: Meneely 204, located on the second floor of Meneely, and the Kollett Center, located adjacent to the Science Center.

Kollett Center
508-286-5815

For current schedules for all peer tutoring, refer to the Kollett Center website:

<http://www.wheatonma.edu/clc/studentresources/tutoring.html>

Kollett Center

Peer tutoring program

Writing tutors



Wheaton

Peer Writing FAQs

What is a writing tutor?

All writers, at some stage in the writing process, work with at least one other individual for guidance and feedback. At Wheaton, students may receive such guidance from peer writing tutors who have taken a tutor training class with Professor Susan Dearing. These tutors can help writers brainstorm, organize, focus, and develop ideas. They can also assist writers with using sources by helping them to paraphrase, introduce, and cite other writers' ideas. Students who have complete drafts may work with the tutors to learn about punctuation, mechanics and proofreading strategies.

Can tutors work with me on papers for any course?

Writing tutors work with all kinds of academic writing, from Biology to Sociology. Writing tutors respond to structural elements such as focus, organization, development, and clarity rather than content.

What happens in a tutoring session?

Every tutoring session is slightly different, depending on the styles and preferences of the tutor and the tutee. But in general, the tutor will ask about the assignment and the purpose of the paper, and what (if any) specific problems or concerns you have about



the paper. Then the tutor will read your paper and address your concerns as well as other issues the tutor notices.

What if I just want someone to proofread my paper?

A common misconception held by many students is that writing tutors are editors and that you can bring them a paper to "correct." This is not the case. For one thing, this kind of help is inconsistent with the Wheaton Honor Code. Secondly, a tutor's main function is to enable you to become a better writer by helping you learn to identify and correct problems yourself. Writing tutors CANNOT edit your paper for you, but they can demonstrate methods you can use to proofread your own papers.

Does going to a writing tutor mean I'm a bad writer?

No one is a perfect writer, and everyone can benefit from having someone else read his or her papers at some time or another. There are always ways for even the best writers to improve their work. Going to a tutor only means that you are willing to take the initiative to improve.

I don't even know how to start my paper. Can I still work with a writing tutor?

Definitely. Going to a writing tutor is a great way to get started. A tutor can help you brainstorm a focus, a thesis, or an organizational structure for a paper you haven't even started writing.

"My experience with the peer writing tutors has been nothing but positive. I've used them for almost all of my classes, even if I don't feel anything is necessarily wrong with my work. It's always helpful to have a second set of eyes look over my papers."
Wheaton student '09